

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 10/23/03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be reimbursement for 'Branch Block' at L4-5, L5-S1, with IV to be completed as an outpatient on date of service (DOS) 3/31/03.

II. RATIONALE

- Requestor submitted convincing evidence dated 3/21/03, showing preauthorization of services had been received and that the disputed DOS were submitted to the respondent for reconsideration.
- Respondent did not respond to MRD according to 133.1(a)(11).
- TWCC submitted a letter to the requestor dated 10/31/03, requesting "two copies of additional documentation relevant to this fee dispute," per TWCC Rule 133.307(g)(3).
- Neither party submitted an EOB with rationale for reduced or denial of payment.
- Requestor did not submit relevant documentation to support delivery of services rendered according to TWCC Rule 133.307(g)(3)(B-F), therefore reimbursement is not recommended.

III. DECISION

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Division has determined that the requestor is not entitled to reimbursement for the Branch Block' at L4-5, L5-S1, with IV.

The above Findings and Decision are hereby issued this 3rd day of February 2004.

Carol R. Lawrence
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

CRL/crl